



THE FARMER'S TALK TO FARMERS

MODERN CONVENIENCES IN RURAL HOMES

(Written Specially for The Bulletin.)

There's a good deal to be said, first and last, about this question of "modern conveniences" in the farm-house. To begin with, not everyone may agree in the exact definition of those things. What seem everyday matters to one may be real luxuries to another. And what seem impossible luxuries to one may be common kitchen arrangements in a different house.

I suppose, though, that "modern conveniences" are generally held to include such things as hot and cold water on tap, a furnace or steam heater in the cellar, a bath-room, and, probably, electric lights for house and barns.

No doubt many other things might properly be included. A small motor to run the washing machine, sewing machine, etc., would certainly be convenient. Dumb waiters to facilitate the lifting of supplies from the cellar to the kitchen would save many steps and much lugging. Automatic dish-washers of course are handy things. A hooded-in cooking range saves the rest of the house from some smoke and unpleasant odors. And so on. There are dozens of real conveniences which any working housewife could name, the adoption of which would lighten her burden.

But still, I think the fact remains that hot and cold water on tap, a bath-room and a cellar heater are the main things intended by the phrase "modern conveniences."

Well, now, are they or are they not worth while in the average New England farm-house? Are they practicable?

Do they always prove to be real "conveniences" or are they, sometimes, merely a nuisance and a source of irritation? As I remarked at the beginning, there's a good deal to be said on both sides in that matter.

Take, to begin with, the running hot and cold water. That necessitates a constant supply from some out-door source, elevated above the house enough to provide ample head. Piping, of course and faucets, traps, etc., throughout the house and the side-quest and always open outlet for the waste to escape. It also requires a special heater on the range.

Now it is unquestionable that the more traps and pipes and joints and faucets and such things there are, the wider is the chance for leakage and the larger opportunity for breakage. In the city, if anything goes wrong with the plumbing, why, there's a plumber next street who can fix it up. The average farm-house, on the other hand, is anywhere from five to fifteen miles from a plumber. It takes a long time for him to get to the scene of a break, and costs about double in the way of time and labor to repair it.

Furthermore, the likelihood of something going wrong with the farm-house plant is greater than in the city. Necessarily, each farm-house must have its own water supply, used only by its own occupants. This means that the water is not moving all the time in the small pipes as it is in the big city mains. Thereby the danger of clogging and corrosion is measurably increased.

On top of which comes the freezing risk of all that of the pipes freezing either in the house or outside of it, during exceptional winter weather. A neighbor of mine, who had occasion to do some digging last winter found the ground frozen solid as a rock to the depth of over five feet. To lay fifty or a hundred rods of pipe more than five feet below the surface, at present rates of labor, would require the farmer who paid for it to mortgage his farm to raise the funds. Yet, if this neighbor had had a water-pipe laid less than five feet deep, it would have frozen and burst, last winter. It is not pleasant to think of what the digging and repairing such a break would mean.

The danger is quite as great inside

the house. There pipes cannot be buried. Their safety depends upon the house being kept warm at all hours of day and night and in all parts where they run. If this can be done, all right. But can it always? Last winter, with several nights registered thirty or more below zero on this particular farm, there was one whole week when the thermometer never once got as high as zero—even at mid-day—water froze thickly in dishes and pitchers in the pantry sink, not eight feet from the kitchen stove. One night, when the fire went out, water in the teakettle standing on the stove froze into a solid block of ice. Yet the average farmer can't sit up all night, throughout the winter, to see that his fires keep up adequate heat. Nor is he usually rich enough to hire some one to do it for him.

I have one neighbor who, three or four years ago, had a complete water system put in his farm-house. That house is rather better than the average in construction and weather-resisting qualities. He and his wife took a full year to study over the whole question and compare the various systems offered. They chose one which seemed to provide the highest degree of security with a reasonable cost and had it put in by competent and experienced workmen. One day last winter the wife told me that they were frozen up, pipes burst, several rooms were made uninhabitable by leakage, furniture damaged, etc. They had sent for plumbers to repair things, but found that nothing effective could be done till the ground thawed out in spring, as the supply pipes were frozen outside. A few days ago the man of the house told me, confidentially, that he had already paid out, in the three years since the system was put up, more for repairs and renewals than the entire original cost. "And the day after tomorrow," he said, "I'm going to dry again, now," he concluded. He faced the necessity of still another big bill to have it put into commission again.

I know of another farm-house where a similar supply has been in use for eight or ten years and still giving excellent service. But this house is never occupied in the winter; every fall the water is shut off from all the pipes at the spring. And the owner is so rich that he doesn't care what his plumbers' bills may be.

Most of us farmers are not as rich as that, and most of us have to live in our farm-houses all the year 'round.

Then there's the bath-tub. It is, without doubt, a comfort, a convenience and conducive to cleanliness. But it is inextricably tied up with the running water problem. Few people, city or country, would use a bath-tub, if they had to fill it with water, part of which had to be first warmed at the kitchen range and all of which had to be carried to the tub in pails. No, a bath-tub without running water, both hot and cold, would be a foolish investment. Yet the task of keeping a bath-room warm and supplied with ample hot and cold water during such a winter as last, may well make any working farmer shrink at the thought of the cost and the risk. Yet it is in the winter that the bath-tub is most needed. When the good old summer time arrives the swimmin'-hole in the brook is just about as handy, quite as sanitary, and a mighty sight less trouble.

Same with basement or cellar furnaces. I know several farm-houses which have been equipped with them. In some cases they are said to work satisfactorily, in some they have been taken out. Last winter I asked a neighbor who has a rather big furnace in his cellar if it kept the whole house warm, all the time. He reflected a bit before answering and then said, in effect: "Well, when the wind's easterly, we don't try to sit in the rooms on that side of the house. And when the wind's northwest, we keep out of the rooms on that side. Otherwise, it does pretty well." His was a wood-burner, and he regularly put up four cords of hard wood to feed it for a winter, using the wood in full four-foot lengths. He later admitted that they had to have a few oil stoves to "kinder brighten up" the living room, and the bed-chamber if they happened to have guests.

In the particular old farm-house which I inhabit—built a hundred and twenty-one years ago—any possible installation of such "modern conveniences" as running water, bath-tub, furnace, etc., would necessitate a complete reconstruction from cellar to garret. That, as any man of experience knows, would cost more than to build a new house. And to build a new house, these times, at present prices for material and labor, would cost more than the whole farm it stands on would sell for.

If I were rich enough, I think I could build a house, with hollow-wall construction and plenty of deadening interspaces, which would defy even a New England winter. I think I could provide for it a water supply which would never freeze and a waste outlet which would never clog up. I think I could find some sort of heater that would keep it comfortable, all over, whether the wind was east or north-west.

But if I had money enough to do all that, I should also have money enough to go to Florida and spend my winters at the Ponce de Leon.

And probably I should do it.

Not having such vast wealth and not knowing any other farmers who have, either, it would seem a dictate of ordinary judgment for us to go to a Salvation Army major in Chicago now serving with a famous battalion of the United States army as a Salvation Army worker, has been mentioned in battalion and regimental orders, has been "over the top" several times with the battalion, has been acclaimed the most popular man in the bat-

John T. Atkins, Formerly a Salvation Army Major in Chicago.

Paris, July 19.—(Correspondence of A. P.)—John T. Atkins, formerly a Salvation Army major in Chicago now serving with a famous battalion of the United States army as a Salvation Army worker, has been mentioned in battalion and regimental orders, has been "over the top" several times with the battalion, has been acclaimed the most popular man in the bat-

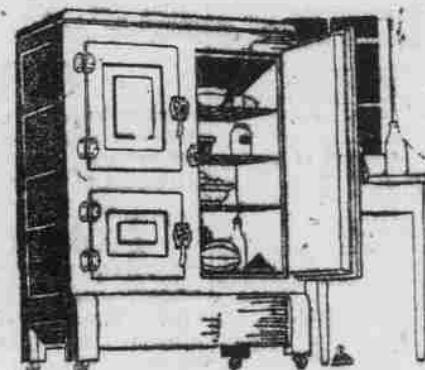


Time and Tide Wait For No Man

The Wheels of Progress Are Daily Grinding Out Opportunities That Will Go To Those Who Take Time By The Forelock

PEOPLE the world call "lucky" are those who are alive to their opportunities and take action in time. The unlucky ones are those who see their opportunities too late.

ONE ounce of action is worth a pound of good intention. Don't put off. Procrastination is the thief of time and opportunity. Attend this sale NOW before it is too late.



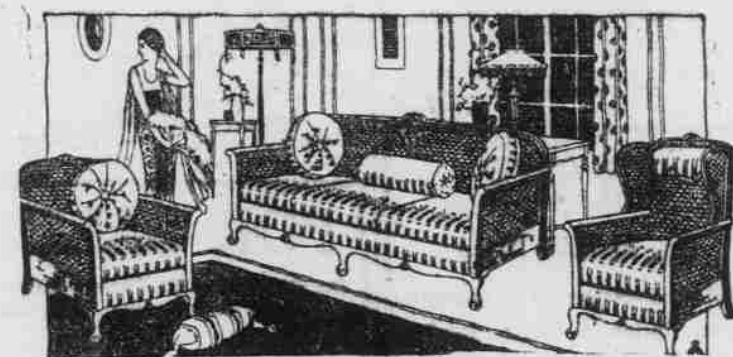
Refrigerators That Conserve Food and Save Ice

There is a wide difference in refrigerators. Some will preserve a very low temperature but only by consuming large quantities of ice. Others do not use so much ice but only part of the food chamber is cooled because of faulty circulation. A really efficient refrigerator should cool all chambers with equal facility with a small consumption of ice. Designed by refrigeration experts and built with the finest insulation known to science. You will find in our refrigerators a constant circulation of dry, cold air to the remotest corners of every food chamber and an unusually low consumption of ice. We now have on display styles and sizes for every home—side-icers, top-icers, chests, etc. Shelves are made of heavily tinned material, food chambers are white enamel and easy to clean.

Refrigerators are sold on credit exactly the same as furniture and a small payment delivers it to your home. You can almost pay for the balance out of the saving in food and ice.

READ THESE SPECIAL PRICES

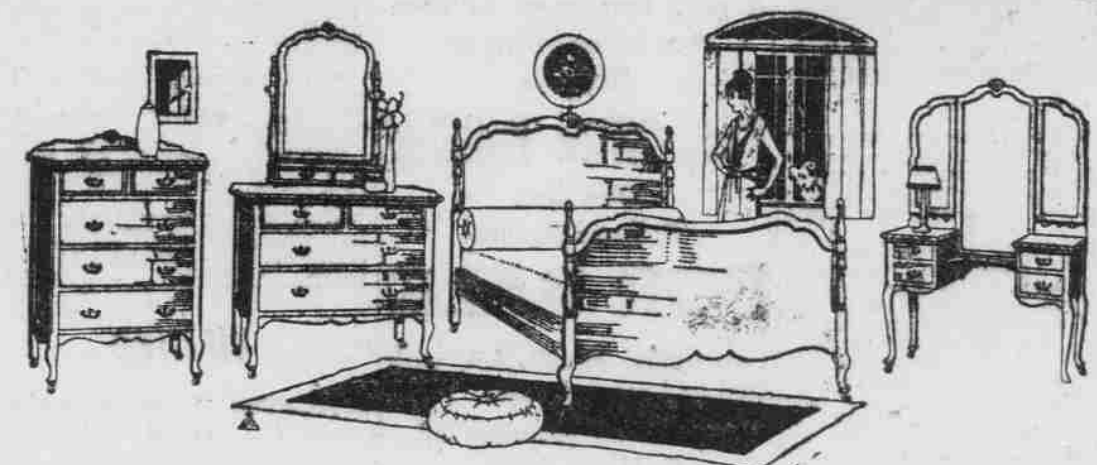
\$12.50 REFRIGERATORS	\$ 9.25
\$15.25 REFRIGERATORS	\$13.90
\$28.00 REFRIGERATORS	\$21.35
\$35.00 REFRIGERATORS	\$29.50
\$45.00 REFRIGERATORS	\$37.50



12 Cane Back Suites Enter This Sale At Exactly 25% Less Than the Regular Selling Prices

These are sample Suites that have served their purpose on our sales floors, and from which hundreds of Suites have been sold. If we had duplicates of them in stock they would never be sold at 25 per cent. less than the regular prices which start at..... \$75.00

Bed Room Furniture Representative of Every Period



The Furniture of Your Home Is The Visible Evidence of Your Good Taste

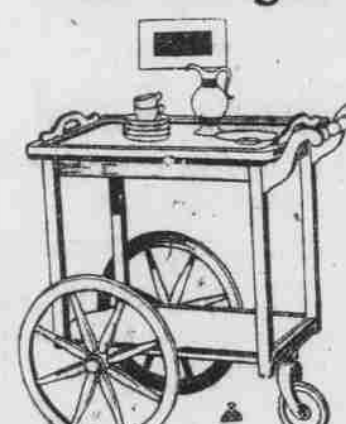
How quick we are to judge people by the exterior things that indicate their judgment and taste. The home is the expression of a intelligent, personal tastes and if for no other reason than for this alone, furniture should be chosen with care. The popularity of Period Furniture bears evidence of the fact that home furnishers now are using more discrimination than heretofore in the selection of the things that give atmosphere to the home.

Here You Will Find The Best From All The Periods

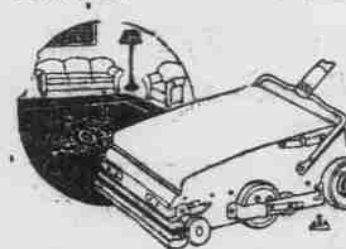
Among the many new Suites now on our floors you will find exquisite examples of the periods of William and Mary, Queen Anne, Louis XVI, Italian Renaissance, Adam, Etc. There is a simplicity, a richness and a peculiar attraction to a Suite of this character. For instance the beautiful Suites, which come in either antique mahogany or American walnut, are typical of the Period Suites now on exhibition. The price for Suite in all finishes from \$55.00 and up, and may be purchased on liberal credit terms.

SEE WINDOW DISPLAY

Summer Is When You Need a Tea Wagon

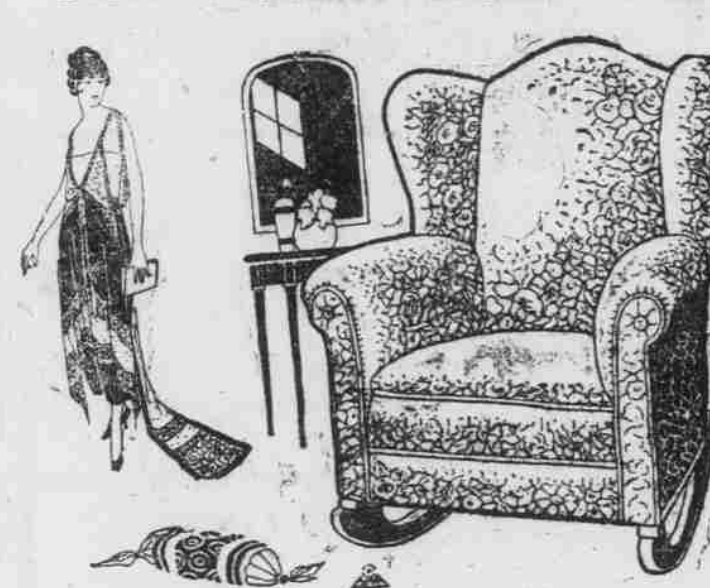


A Tea Wagon is convenient and desirable at all seasons but never do you have more use for it than in the summer, to serve lemonade, ice drinks, etc., on the porch or lawn. A complete exhibit now on display. Prices range upward from \$9.90.



Carpet Sweepers of Quality Much Below Market Prices

Luxurious Upholstered Arm Rocker from \$16.50



A Massive Fireside Rocker In Beautiful Tapestry

Nothing adds a touch of comfort and luxury to the living room as does a massive upholstered rocker. The pleasing design, the careful workmanship and the exceptional quality of this rocker makes it a splendid value.

SEE THE NEW HOUSE BEAUTIFUL, 2nd Floor

THE PLAUT-CADDEN CO.

ESTABLISHED 1872

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talion and recommended for a commission a chaplain.

"Major" Atkins who is known to the officers and men of the battalion as "the little major" to distinguish him from the real major of the organization, Major Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., is said to carry the good luck of the unit with him. The boys believe that when he is present with them in an engagement, their casualties are light. On one occasion, when a raid was to be undertaken, the little major's unit suffered only four casualties, while the next organization suffered severely.

When the day was a long time coming recently, he gave each man in the battalion an order for seven francs on the cashier. Each took advantage of the "jambone" as the army boys call a loan, and when payday came not one failed a visit to the little major with the return payment.

Down to Date.

Thanks to this freshest in the Plaut, all the Venetian gondoliers will be using Austrian pontoons for trailers.

THE PRESENT WAR IS A "WAR OF REVENGE."

German Newspapers Disclose It Had Long Been Desired.

New York, July 18.—The present war is a "war of revenge," long desired by the Pan-Germans, writes Kurd von Strantz, a Pan-German leader, in a book entitled "Our National War Goal," published in Germany.

German newspaper received here quote the author as saying: "In my boyhood days the German war of retaliation, as we must name this world war more correctly, was the dream of my life, the realization of which I have never despaired of, although I did doubt that I would live to see it in view of the unfortunate peace policy followed by the post-Bismarckian administration.

gradually lost in the east and west since 1872. Neither 1815 nor 1871 restored those frontiers.

"Bismarck started our national rise but he did not complete it. His discharge impeded the victory-promising course, as his successor gave half of German Africa senselessly, without any compensation, to our new arch-enemy, England. Therewith began the descent which only this world war could arrest and which I longed for and foresaw when such thoughts were unpopular.

The Berlin Vorwaerts says that the entire enemy world will learn of the confession with great satisfaction and adds: "If Herr von Strantz had been paid for his book by enemy agents, he could not have better worked into the hands of the enemy countries. The book," says the Vorwaerts, "is proof of the criminal activities of certain Pan-German circles which now openly boast that they had longed for this war as their greatest happiness."

The more you think about some men the less you think of them.

HEARING BY WAR LABOR BOARD IN BRIDGEPORT.

Claim Made That Advance in Wages Has Exceeded Increase in Cost of Living.

Bridgeport, Conn., July 18.—That the cost of living in Bridgeport has increased 61.4 per cent, during the period from Jan. 1, 1915, to June 22, 1918, and that during the same period there has been an increase of 81 per cent, in weekly earnings among industrial workers in Bridgeport shops, was the substance of the testimony given before the investigators of the Taft-Walsh board here today by W. E. Freeland, who has for several weeks been working on the Bridgeport statistics at the head of a committee of nearly two hundred investigators.

In testifying today, E. P. Bullard, Jr., president of the Bullard companies, said in relation to an agreement which would make wage adjustments retroactive to May 1, that he did not and other employers likewise did not think

it fair if they were to be included in the retroactive agreement when they had not been a party to the trouble.

They had agreed to accept any decision on wages made by the war labor board, but believed that the increase, if any, is granted should affect other factories only from the date of the award and not extend back several months in their cases.

QUENTIN ROOSEVELT WAS LAST SEEN ON JULY 14.

Was Then in Combat on Enemy's Side of Lines—General Pershing Cables.

Washington, July 18.—The following message from General Pershing was transmitted by the war department today to Colonel Roosevelt at Oyster Bay: "Headquarters, First brigade, Air service, reports: First Lieutenant Quentin Roosevelt, 95th aerial squadron, last pursuit group missing. Last seen on enemy's side of lines in combat with enemy plane (S) about 9.15 morning July 14th."

HUSBAND SAVES WIFE

From Suffering by Getting Her Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

Pittsburgh, Pa.—"For many months I was not able to do my work owing to a weakness which caused backache and headaches. A friend called my attention to one of your newspaper advertisements and immediately my husband bought three bottles of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound for me. After taking two bottles I felt fine and my troubles caused by that weakness are a thing of the past. All women who suffer as I did should try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound."

Mrs. JAS. ROHRBERG, 630 Knapp St., N. S., Pittsburgh, Pa.

Women who suffer from any form of weakness, as indicated by displacements, inflammation, ulceration, irregularities, backache, headaches, nervousness or "the blues," should accept Mrs. Rohrborg's suggestion and give Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound a thorough trial.

For over forty years it has been correcting such ailments. If you have mysterious complications write for advice to Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co., Lynn, Mass.

TO PEOPLE WHO CHAFE

Over one hundred thousand people in this country have proved that nothing relieves the soreness of chafing as quickly and permanently as "Sikes Comfort Powder," S. S. & F. and other drug stores. Trial Box Free. The Comfort Powder Co., Boston, Mass.